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suggestion in this work, for which, as well as for the interpretation of the present by the past in which he continually indulges, we have to thank him.

*The Young Pretender.* By CHARLES SANFORD TERRY. (London: Methuen and Company. 1903. Pp. xvi, 222.)

THE author of this charming contribution to the "Little Biographies" series comes to his task fresh from his special studies in the Stuart records. In rapid sequence have recently appeared his *Rising of the '45* (1900); the *Chevalier de St. George* (1901); and the edition of the *Albemarle Papers* (1902). It is not surprising that he has produced a book which will prove a safe and fascinating guide to the lay reader. Each of the six chapters is crammed with facts; yet the mass of details is so marshalled that one's interest in the narrative never flags.

The seventeenth century Stuarts did not escape the traditional *fatalité* of their race; and the "same aloofness from their time and people which wrecked" them "doomed both the Old and Young *Prétendants* to failure." James III. was in his fourteenth year in 1701 when his father died. He was the victim of paternal discipline. In 1696 James II. drew up twenty-six *Rules for the family of our dearest son, the Prince of Wales*. The fourteenth may serve as a sample: "None must be permitted to whisper or run into corners with the Prince, wher the Governor, etc., may not hear and see what they do and say; and he shall receive directions from Us, what children are fitt to play with our son or to go in coach with him." "One discerns already," remarks the author, "the 'Old Mr. Melancholy' of later days in this rigid regulation of his mirthless youth." According to his father's admonition he never forgot his debt to Louis nor "that God and religion are above all earthly interests." James III. "saved his soul alive," but his worldly prospects fed the altar of sacrifice. Like David of Scotland, he "was a 'sair saint' to his phantom crown. He was 'dévot à l'excès,' as De Brosse remarked." Indeed, throughout his career he was somber, pious, and inept, but withal amiable, conscientious, and grateful to his benefactors.

Very different from his father in character was Prince Charles, the Young Pretender. In his youth, says the author, he was high-spirited, "rash, and impetuous to a fault"; later a "man broken by despair and irksome inactivity, an *homme sauvage*, addicted to the 'nasty b tle,' ill-treating his mistress, a brute to his wife, and generally his own worst enemy." His character seems a compromise between that of the Merry Monarch, Charles II., and that of Prince Rupert the cavalry leader, tempered by his heritage through his mother, the Princess Clementina Maria Sobieska, granddaughter of the famous John of Poland. To the first twenty-five years of the Prince's life (1720-1745) Mr. Terry devotes his second chapter. The chief interest of his narrative centers, however, in the next two chapters, in which the desperate venture of 1745-1746 is most realistically described. During this period Charles shows himself

almost worthy of the marvelous loyalty and heroic courage of his Highland friends. His cause was forever lost at Culloden ; but he left behind him in Scotland a "fragrant and undying memory." Nevertheless, with all his courage and gallantry, at no time does the Prince give the slightest evidence that he is fit to reign or that he has ever weighed the responsibilities of a ruler. Indeed, Charles had not a strong character. He could not with fortitude accept his destiny. His abandonment by Louis "was the death of him morally. Nature had framed him for another Rupert. Charles XII. was his hero. Fate made him a loafer, and he sank incontinent to the lower plane." The history of the last forty-two years of his life (1746-1788) is a shameful record of intrigue, amours, domestic scandal, drunkenness, and base ingratitude, relieved only by the loyalty and devotion of his illegitimate daughter Charlotte. The last two chapters of this excellent book are devoted to this "tragedy" ; but it is impossible here to attempt even a brief summary of them. The author has appended a useful bibliographical note.

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD.

*Madame de Pompadour.* By H. NOEL WILLIAMS. (New York : Charles Scribner's Sons. 1902. Pp. xiv, 431.)

MR. WILLIAMS has published a handsome volume on Madame de Pompadour, embellished by excellent portraits of frail beauties and famous statesmen. As a general rule, the lives of royal mistresses do not deserve commemoration ; there is small profit in exploring the scandals of the past. But Madame de Pompadour is an exception to this rule. She was not merely an immoral woman who found favor in the eyes of a king : the list of such, unfortunately, is very long ; but for many years she exercised a greater influence on French politics than any other person, man or woman, the King not excepted. If the history of France in the last century is to be written at all, it would be absurd to exclude from it the character and career of Madame de Pompadour.

On the whole, Mr. Williams has done his work well. He tells nothing that is new to students of French history, but his work furnishes the ordinary reader with a fair account of the career of an unusual woman. He has consulted most of the authorities of value, and it must be admitted that he has also consulted some authorities of little value. There are frequent references, for example, to the *Vie Privée de Louis XV.* This is not a chronicle deserving consideration from writers who think that historical works should not be based upon untrustworthy gossip. Mr. Williams may say that many of the readers of this book will like the gossip, and they will not be disturbed because he relates incidents that Freeman would have rejected as unproved.

That many anecdotes with which Mr. Williams enlivens his work have slight foundation in fact may not be very important, but some errors are to be regretted. He has consulted Arneth, and rejects the apocryphal letter which Maria Theresa was supposed to have written to